

Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute Vision

“We envision a Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute operating on a regional, lake and state level capable of providing emerging citizen fishery leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively interact with Great Lakes fishery management organizations for the benefit of the fishery and its stakeholders. We envision this Institute as an on-going certificate program whose graduates will be widely respected and sought after as advisors on Great Lakes fishery related issues.”

Curriculum Development Goal

“The goal of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Fisheries Extension Enhancement Program is to develop a consistent curriculum for training fisheries stakeholders throughout the Great Lakes basin.”

Audience - Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute Participants

“The concept behind the Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute is to provide in-depth training to the ‘next generation’ of leaders - those who are new leaders to their fisheries related organizations, those likely to become leaders of their organizations within the next few years, and those likely to be serving as advisors to Great Lakes fishery related institutions (e.g., Lake Committees). “

“Participants will be nominated and selected by a steering committee which will be composed of partner agencies (e.g., Great Lakes Fishery Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and current Great Lakes fishery leadership (including private sector representation from the sport fishing community). Participants will be selected to represent a variety of organization ‘types’ – environmental NGOs, commercial fishermen, charter captains, tribes, sportfishing associations, visitor bureaus, science writers, legislators, legislative aides, etc. This mix of participants will help participants in the Institute to deepen their understanding of the multiple perspectives and stakeholders involved in any Great Lakes fishery management decision.”

Objectives of the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute

The goal of the Great Lakes Fisheries Leadership Institute is to provide the next generation of fisheries leaders for the Great Lakes region with the skills which they will need to effectively interact with fisheries management agencies and provide real leadership to the region as well as to their organizations. Objectives include:

1. Develop stakeholders from each Great Lakes state as Great Lakes Fishery Leaders - a cohort of leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide effective leadership on fisheries management issues,
2. Create a network of Great Lakes leaders from the broadest possible variety of backgrounds and organizations who are able to call upon each other to effectively address and/or advocate regional needs
3. Empower these fishery leaders to influence policy decisions and legislative initiatives
4. Maximize the effective life of citizen volunteers by condensing the learning curve,
5. Minimize frustration of both Great Lakes fisheries management agencies and those citizen leaders and who do not understand the complexities of Great Lakes fishery-related institutional arrangements, history and science.
6. Expose leadership from one end of the Great Lakes region to the issues and concerns of the other parts of the region.
7. Multiply the ability of Great Lakes Sea Grant Extension to reach constituent audiences using a ‘teach-the-teacher’ model.